

Serial No. 10/724,326
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REMARKS

Applicants have canceled claims 2-3 and 15-18. Thus, claims 1, 4-14 and 19 are pending and presented for examination. Claim 19 has been previously allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Request For Allowance of Claims 1 and 4-17:

The Examiner indicated that claim 3 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 in such a manner. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of independent claim 1, as well as claims 4-7 and 9-14 which depend from claim 1.

The Examiner also indicated that claim 8 contained patentable subject matter and would be allowed in rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended dependent claim 8 in such a manner. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of independent claim 8.

Conclusion

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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